



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

MONTANA CHAPTER

TO: MCAFS ExCom and Committee Chairs
FROM: Matt Jaeger, MCAFS Secretary/Treasurer
RE: Minutes from MCAFS ExCom Meeting

DATE/LOCATION: 12 February 2007, Missoula Hilton Garden Inn

Attendees: Kate Walker, Leanne Roulson, David Scmetterling, Pat Byorth, and Matt Jaeger

-----AGENDA-----

Opening

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Additions/Changes to Agenda

New and Old Business

- 3) 2007 Montana Chapter meeting
- 4) RAF application process
- 5) Archiving historical documents
- 6) Committee Business
- 7) Hutton Program
- 8) Lobbyist
- 9) Changes to procedures manual
- 10) RAF requests
- 11) Scholarship recommendations
- 12) Student chapter president voting right
- 13) Agenda for business meeting
- 14) 2007 WDAFS meeting sponsorship
- 15) Membership/Registration
- 16) New officers
- 17) Approval of last EXCOM Meeting Minutes
- 18) Treasurers Report
- 19) Next Excom meeting

Adjourn

Minutes



Opening

- 1) Introductions: The meeting began at 12:00 P.M. No introductions were needed.
- 2) Additions/Changes to Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda.

New and Old Business

3) 2007 Montana AFS Meeting

a. Last minute needs and general meeting discussion.

Most needs had been planned for and addressed. Development of a “meeting planning” manual was discussed again to help address the larger venues and more extensive planning required as our Chapter grows in size. The Oregon Chapter now has an electronic version of their chapter meeting planning manual. **AI: David will use the Oregon Chapter’s meeting planning manual as a template to craft a similar manual for the Montana Chapter.**

Because of the large number of continuing education registrants that elected not to register for and attend the main meeting we discussed developing a tiered pricing strategy whereby continuing education registrants would receive a price break if they also registered for the main meeting. We decided that this year may be an outlier related solely to the course topic but that if high attendance is anticipated for future continuing education courses this idea should be revisited.

b. Delegation of President-elect meeting planning duties

David found it helpful to have other Excom members coordinate the tradeshow and fundraising. We discussed formally designating past-president as fundraising coordinator and president as tradeshow coordinator. **AI: Kate will formalize specific roles and general thoughts of involving all Excom members in meeting planning and execution as she updates the procedures manual.** Kate noted that the continuing education course attracted many potential candidates for future fundraising efforts and suggested using the roster to solicit for the trade show and meeting sponsorship next year.

c. Vendor final tally

A total of seven vendors signed up for the trade show for a gross profit of \$3500; however, vendor registrations still need to be deducted from this total.

d. Sponsorship final tally

A total of \$4500 has been raised so far with a few commitments still outstanding. **AI Matt will send out receipts and thank you letters to all donors.**

4) RAF process

Kate worked with Bob Wiltshire who provided a copy of the Federation of Fly Fishers criteria for soliciting and evaluating grant applications. All agreed that this was an excellent template we would like to integrate into our RAF process. **AI: Excom will review the FFF criteria and get comments back to Kate by the end of March.**

5) Archiving historical documents.

We reviewed some of the recent Chapter discussion regarding this issue and debated the topic anew. Leanne presented a good example of the value of having electronic copies when reporting or

research needs arise or as an emergency backup and noted that other chapters have achieved this by soliciting students to scan paper copies into electronic format as a student fundraiser. David discussed the importance of media selection for the archives in light of rapid technological advances in information storage; it is possible that we may select a media that will become obsolete thereby making it difficult to access information. Excom wasn't sure what type of information was being archived and how it was cataloged. **AI: Leanne will get an update of the status of the historical documents from Paul Hamlin and report on the need for electronic archiving in more detail.**

6) Committee business – No committees reported business to discuss.

7) Hutton Program.

We discussed the Hutton Program and why it may not cater to Montana students and professionals. Although program organizers bemoan low numbers of mentor and student applicants from Montana the award is very competitive nationwide and qualified Montana mentors and students have been denied scholarships in the past; 56 scholarships were granted last year, which corresponds to about 20% of the qualified applicants. All agreed that the program was fundamentally excellent but that we should pursue making it more appealing to Montana mentors and more accessible to Montana students. We discussed ideas for establishing several regional Montana scholarships through either the Parent Society or our Chapter to ensure that we target Montana students and solicit more involvement from Montana members. **AI: Matt and Leanne will determine the logistics and options for developing Montana Chapter Hutton-type scholarships.**

8) Lobbyist

Leanne drew up a formal contract with the Montana Audubon Society and Excom unanimously voted to pay \$1500 for Janet Ellis to serve as our lobbyist this legislative session. It was noted that during previous legislative sessions we received updates on relevant bills from our lobbyist who would then voice our position. Excom expressed strong desire that the lobbyist not only keep us apprised of relevant legislation but also serve as our proxy and actively lobby our position. Leanne will follow up to ensure that the lobbyist will serve as our proxy in addition to keeping us apprised of relevant legislation. We also discussed the need for MCAFS to have an active voice this legislative session and draft letters concerning important issues.

9) Changes to the procedures manual

AI: Kate will update the procedures manual to include changes to the RAF application and selection process, Excom roles in meeting planning, and verbiage describing the establishment of the Wally McClure graduate and undergraduate awards including how scholarships should be awarded if no undergraduate students apply.

10) RAF requests

a. Pearl Dace Survival- \$2,000 submitted by MT Natural Heritage Program

This proposal seeks to collect information to better understand the long-term status of a pearl dace population in northeastern Montana. Brief discussion regarding the need to coordinate with appropriate biologists or managers prior to RAF application occurred. Excom unanimously voted to fund this request.

b. Shields River- \$5,000 submitted by Montana TU

Because this RAF request was \$5,000 it will be presented to and voted on by the membership at the business meeting. Pat Byorth will present the RAF request at the business meeting and also presented it to Excom. This proposal seeks to synthesize all existing information beneficial to

Yellowstone cutthroat trout recovery in the Shields River drainage with emphasis on identifying critical targets for flows, temperatures, etc. This would be an independent effort that would combine the information from various data collecting entities that don't have the necessary time or expertise to compile it on their own. The finished product would be available to all players involved in Yellowstone cutthroat trout conservation.

11) Wally McClure Scholarship recommendations

It was the intention of the Wally McClure Scholarship Committee to present an undergraduate and graduate award but because no undergraduate students applied they decided to present the award to the top masters and doctoral candidates. Excom discussed the need to increase interest and awareness among undergraduates in the scholarship to improve the likelihood that it is awarded as was intended in the future. Leanne addressed this issue at the business meeting and solicited involvement from the student subunits and professors to better advertise the award to undergraduate students. Excom unanimously voted to approve the recommendations of the Wally McClure Scholarship Committee and grant awards to Mike Meeuwig and Leslie Bahn.

12) Student chapter president voting right.

Currently presidents of the respective student subunits are technically members of Excom but do not have voting rights. This agenda item will be discussed at the business meeting.

13) Agenda for business meeting

We discussed items that should be added to the business meeting agenda and identified the following:

- a. Shields River TU RAF
- b. T-shirts
- c. Students voting at Excom.
- d. MCAFS logo.

14) 2007 WDAFS Meeting in San Francisco

We discussed how much money MCAFS should send for sponsorship. Most other Western Division chapters contributed \$500 to support the 2006 meeting we hosted last year so Excom unanimously voted to reciprocate with a \$500 donation towards the 2007 meeting.

15) Membership/ Registration – database status.

Clint has updated the membership database with the latest version from the parent society and will be updating from meeting registrants as well. The database likely needs some work to eliminate duplicate entries and other errors that Clint will address before his term ends.

16) New Officers

a. President –elect

Several candidates were discussed that have run in previous years (Eileen Ryce, Scott Bosse) or may have expressed interest this year (Wade Fredenberg). David solicited nominations prior to the business meeting.

b. Secretary-Treasurer

Windy Davis has expressed willingness to serve in this position and will be nominated at the business meeting.

c. Membership

Clint Sestrich would be willing to serve again if no one else expresses interest. David suggested Travis Lohrentz or Mark Delerey. David recruited a replacement prior to the business meeting.

17) Approval of last EXCOM Meeting Minutes

Excom reviewed the minutes from the 11 August 2006 meetings. Outstanding action items were addressed and resolved. Kate moved to accept the minutes, Leanne seconded the motion, no further discussion took place, and the motion was passed unanimously. Matt sent a copy of the minutes to Lee to be posted on the web page.

18) Approval of treasurer's report

Matt reviewed the 11 August 2006 treasurer's report. Leanne moved to accept the report, David seconded the motion, no further discussion took place, and the motion was passed unanimously. Matt sent a copy of the treasurer's report to Lee to be posted on the web page.

19) Next Excom Meeting

The time and date of our next meeting were not set.